

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County Department of
Animal Care & Control

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Beyond the Call of Duty



At the September 18 Board of Supervisor's meeting, Supervisor Jim Clem (R-Leesburg) presented a resolution of commendation to Animal Control Officer Megan McGarrigle for her role in the arrest of two suspected pedophiles in Augusta County, VA.

In August, Officer McGarrigle was attending basic Animal Control training at the Central Shenandoah Training Academy in Weyers Cave, Virginia. Down the hall, a class was being taught on covert online investigations. One of the deputies in the class, Jason Falls of Augusta County, had logged on to a chat room posing as a 13-year old girl as part of a routine

class exercise. To his surprise, it only took minutes before he was being propositioned by adult men. Within an hour, a man was ready to meet the "girl" he was chatting with. But, he wanted to talk to her on the phone first. The instructor looked in neighboring classrooms for a female with a young voice, and found Megan. She was perfect for the task, and agreed without hesitation. She spoke with the man only once, and set up a meeting at a local gas station. When the man arrived, instead of a meeting a 13 year old girl, he was arrested by the Augusta County Sheriff's Department.

But the story did not end there. Another man was also attempting to meet the "girl" from the chat room. Megan spoke with this man too, and after more than 30 phone conversations, he came to Augusta County for a rendezvous. He was also arrested. Both suspected pedophiles are facing felony charges with the possibility of up to 25 years in prison.

According to Deputy Falls, "Megan did a wonderful job... with no training." He also remarked that, "there is no doubt in my mind [the arrests] wouldn't have happened without her." Animal Care & Control Director Tom Koenig noted that, "Megan's willingness to assist in this case shows her dedication and commitment to law enforcement. Everyone in the Department of Animal Care & Control is proud to have her as one of our officers." **Congratulations Megan on a job well done!**

Microchip Success!



Thank you to everyone who came out to our Microchip Clinic on September 22. We microchipped **136 animals** in three hours, including dogs, cats, and one rabbit!

These animals now carry permanent identification and can be reunited with their owners should they ever come to the Shelter.

A special thank you to Dr. Valerie Campbell of Blue Ridge Veterinary Associates (pictured above, with Ellen Nadeau and Inga Fricke) for participating in the clinic and helping to protect our pets!

En Espanol

Animal Care & Control is proud to announce that we are expanding our outreach to our Spanish speaking community through a number of initiatives, including:

- a new Spanish language brochure.
- a new Spanish language section of our website, including information on the Department along with

general pet care tips and rabies information.

- Dual handset phones at our front counter to assist with Spanish speaking customers.

We hope that these measures help to encourage our Spanish speaking citizens to use our services, especially owners who have lost their pets or citizens in need of Animal Control assistance.



Prepare Your Pets

September is National Preparedness Month, and Animal Care & Control urges pet owners to have a plan for their four legged friends in case of emergency. We've launched a new resource center on our website to help in planning for your pets. Here is some information to get you started.

If you have to evacuate, **take your pets with you.** Even if you think you will only be gone for a couple of hours, as conditions can change quickly in an emergency and you may find that you are unable to return home. Be prepared with a list of places where you and your pet are welcome in an emergency.

The next step in proper planning for a disaster is to make sure you also have a **disaster supply kit** for your pet. Be sure

to include a two week supply of:

- Food and water
- Medications
- A sturdy collar and leash
- A good sized carrier or crate.
- A photo of your pet (face and body)
- Vaccination records and contact information for your veterinarian
- Litter and a box for cats. Consider pre-lined disposable boxes for ease of travel.
- Toys, blankets, and treats to help relieve stress.

For more information on disaster planning for pets, visit www.loudoun.gov/animals.



Always have a good sized crate or carrier in case you need to confine your pet. These are great for cats too!

Employee of the Month

Jenny Swiggart is September's Employee of the Month! Jenny has worked for the Department since 2000. She began as an Animal Field Technician, and has worked as the Department's Advanced Animal Care & Training Coordinator since 2005.

Jenny's effort and work in ensuring her duties are accomplished and then looking to help in other areas is highly commendable. Her recent work on adoption policies and the Canine Companion Readiness program are

outstanding, and includes assisting the Director in putting together policy language and making enhancements to adoption procedures. Her ability and confidence in her field is a great asset to the Department. She always shows a positive attitude, commitment and work ethic and serves as an example to other staff. Her love and commitment to the animals is second to none and greatly appreciated. **Thank you Jenny!**



Congratulations Jenny!

Welcome Clara

Animal Care & Control is very happy to welcome Clara Isenmann, one of the German students visiting Loudoun County as part of the Main-Taunus-Kreis Student Government Intern Program.

Clara is a student at Albert-Einstein-Gymnasium near Frankfurt. She studies drama and English, and is the oldest of three. This is her first visit to the United States!

During her two weeks with the Department, Clara will be working on Animal Shelter programs, going on a ride-along with an Animal Control Officer, and assisting with community outreach programs including working on the Department's website. She will even be a guest on the Department's TV show, "Making Friends!"

If you see Clara out and about, be sure to say hello. We are very happy to have her here!

